



S/N 10/088,049

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Gunter Ritter	Examiner:	Ware, Deborah K.
Serial No.:	10/088,049	Group Art Unit:	1651
Filed:	June 4, 2002	Docket No.:	12742.0019USWO
Title:	<u>METHOD FOR IMPROVING WATER QUALITY OF TANK SYSTEM</u>		

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. At least some of the references were cited in an office action from the Chinese Patent Office mailed July 16, 2004.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 or a CPA under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the Chinese Patent Office First Office Action. Applicant(s) note(s) reference(s) DE 297 23 623 U 1 also listed in the Office Action was/were previously cited to or by the Examiner.

A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language document or other information is as follows (37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)):

The reference states at page 3, lines 11-16:

"The carboxylic acids of the invention are exclusively ecologically compatible and completely degradable carboxylic acids which in the ecological system 'water' may be degraded relatively fast, i.e. according to the conditions within hours to a few days and leave behind sodium hydrogen carbonate only and therefore completely lead to the desired calcium- and/or magnesium hydrogen carbonate, respectively sodium-hydrogen carbonate."

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.


Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 202-326-0330 to resolve any outstanding issues following entry of the present Request for Continued Examination.

Respectfully submitted,

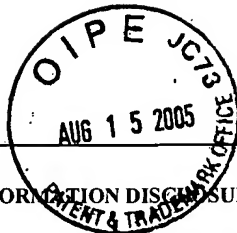
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
202-326-0300

Date: August 15, 2005

  
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Ronald A. Daignault, Esq.  
Reg. No. 25,968



Steven Kelben  
Reg. No. 30,075



<b>FORM 1449*</b> <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <b>IN AN APPLICATION</b> (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 12742.0019UEWO	Application Number: 10/088,049
	Applicant: Gunter Ritter	
	Filing Date: June 4, 2002	Group Art Unit: 1651

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	297 23 623 U1	12/03/98	GERMAN			PARTIAL	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		
		Chinese Patent Office, First Office Action dated July 16, 2004

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	